

## **SERMON**

**DATE:** Saturday - Sunday, March 21-22, 2020

**SERIES: WHY GOD SENT HIS SON**

**SERMON:** God's Loving Character

### **Luke 15:1-12 NIV**

[1] Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.

[2] But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

[3] Then Jesus told them this parable:

[4] "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

[5] And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders

[6] and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

[7] I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

[8] "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

[9] And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'

[10] In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

[11] Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.

[12] The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

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**God sent His Son to reveal the nature and character of God . . .**

**1. God welcomes and loves the outcasts.**

- He believes in restoration and redemption.

**2. God seeks the lost and hurting.**

- *Luke 15:10* In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

**3. God rejoices at life change.**

- *Luke 15:18-19* I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.
- *Psalms 51:4* Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.
- We are all rebels at heart.

**4. God uses and blesses unlikely servants.**

# Lagniappe

Two weeks ago, I had no idea where we would be today. Even one week ago seems like a time long ago which is now almost forgotten.

Two weeks ago, we were having record attendance in worship and talking about having 2000 people in Connect Group attendance.

Two weeks ago, we talked about *increasing* the budget to add to ministries and missions.

All of that is ancient history.

Now, like all churches I know, we are meeting without people and wondering if we will be able to pay our bills. Dreams and visions have been replaced with worries and concerns.

Where are we? (Next week I will try to write about where we will be if another seismic shift doesn't occur).

Actually, we don't know much. Last weekend instead of the 2500 plus in worship we expected we had less than 700. Even then we had to be creative to follow guidelines (three different services in three different venues). We didn't get to have Connect Groups at all, and the budget was only 60% of the norm.

Will we be able to recover?

This is what I can say. The same God who has kept us in the past will keep us now. The same faithful people who have served our God will serve Him again.

New believers who have never been in the church during difficult times will follow the leading of God's Spirit to give, pray, minister, and serve.

While times may be difficult, we will be fine as long as we lift up Christ and seek to minister in His name.

## Waylon